

Message Text

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SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION--THIRD WORLD CONTROL OF NEWS AGENCIES

USICA FOR EA, PGM/RC, VOA/PF, PGM/P, PGM/RM/RR

1. COLUMNIST SUTHICHAIR YOON, WRITING APRIL 17 IN THE THAI-LANGUAGE DAILY TIME, REVIEWS THIRD WORLD COMPLAINTS ABOUT NEWS COVERAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, FINDS THEM VALID, BUT DOUBTS THEIR PROPOSED SOLUTION WOULD "NECESSARILY RESULT IN FAIRNESS" IN COVERING NEWS.

2. SUTHICHAIR, WHO IS ALSO MANAGING EDITOR OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPER THE NATION, AGREES THAT "THE WEST'S CONTROL OF INFORMATION BY INTERPRETING ONLY FROM THE EYES OF WESTERNERS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REAL FEELINGS OF HOST COUNTRY PEOPLE."

3. BUT WHILE THE THIRD WORLD PROPOSAL, EXPRESSED IN A UNESCO DOCUMENT "IS AIMED AT CREATING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (IN NEWS COVERAGE,) IT SEEMS TO PRESENT AN EASY OPENING FOR POLITICAL INTERVENTION TO ENTER THE SCENE AND GIVES ALL BENEFITS TO GOVERNMENTS

. THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN FAIRNESS," SUTHICHAIR CONCLUDES.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 11014 171219Z

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